



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

RECEIVED

JUL - 6 2004

HDR Engineering, Inc.

Phone: (651) 296-7863 Fax: (651) 296-1811 E-mail: sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us

July 1, 2004

Michelle Bissonnette
HDR Engineering
6190 Golden Hills Drive
Minneapolis, MN 55416-1518

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed Mankato Energy Center 115 kV and 345 kV Transmission Lines, T109N R26W Section 31, Blue Earth County
NHINRP Contact #: ERDB 20040929

Dear Ms. Bissonnette,

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the area indicated on the map enclosed with your information request. Based on this review, there are 6 known occurrences of rare species or natural communities in the area searched (for details, see enclosed database printout and explanation of selected fields). However, based on the nature and location of the proposed project I do not believe it will affect any known occurrences of rare features.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources. It is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, natural communities, and other natural features. Its purpose is to foster better understanding and protection of these features.

Because our information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be rare or otherwise significant natural features in the state that are not represented in the database. A county-by-county survey of rare natural features is now underway, and has been completed for Blue Earth County. Our information about natural communities is, therefore, quite thorough for that county. However, because survey work for rare plants and animals is less exhaustive, and because there has not been an on-site survey of all areas of the county, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

The enclosed results of the database search are provided in two formats: index and full record. To control the release of locational information which might result in the damage or destruction of a rare element, both printout formats are copyrighted.

The index provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the index for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. Copyright notice for the index should include the following disclaimer:

"Copyright (year) State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. This index may be reprinted, unaltered, in Environmental Assessment Worksheets, municipal natural resource plans, and internal reports. For any other use, written permission is required."

The full-record printout includes more detailed locational information, and is for your personal use

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929

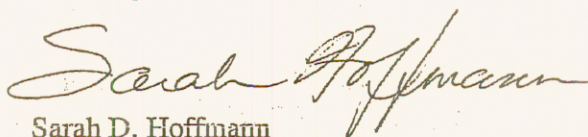


only. If you wish to reprint the full-record printouts for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only on *rare natural features*. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. If you require further information on the environmental review process for other wildlife-related issues, you may contact your Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Shannon Fisher, at (507) 359-6073.

An invoice for the work completed will be mailed to you under separate cover within two weeks of the date of this letter. You are being billed for map and database search and staff scientist review. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,



Sarah D. Hoffmann

Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

encl: Database search results

Rare Feature Database Print-Outs: An Explanation of Fields

Minnesota Natural Heritage Database
 Element Occurrence Records

MANKATO ENERGY CENTER 115 KV AND 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINES
 T109N R26W SECTION 31, BLUE EARTH COUNTY
 MNDNR, Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program

13:54 Tuesday, JUNE 15, 2004
 Copyright 2004 State of Minnesota DNR

MANAGED AREA

TWP	RNG	PRIMARY SECTION	FED STATUS	MN STATUS	S RANK	ELEMENT and OCCURRENCE NUMBER
T108N	R26W	06		SPC		COLUMBER CONSTRICTOR (RACER) #504
T109N	R26W	31			S1	MESIC PRAIRIE (SOUTHEAST) #38
T109N	R27W	25			S3	FLOODPLAIN FOREST SILVER MAPLE SUBTYPE #64
T109N	R27W	36	LT	SPC		HALIAEETUS LEUCOCOPHALUS (BALD EAGLE) #1380
T109N	R27W	36				MUSSEL SAMPLING SITE #121
T109N	R27W	36		THR		POLYODON SPATHULA (PADDLEFISH) #6

RECORDS PRINTED = 6



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40__

Phone: (651) 296-7863

Fax: (651) 296-1811

E-mail: sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us

September 11, 2003

Dale Claridge
Wenck Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 249
Maple Plain, MN 55359

RECEIVED BY

SEP 16 2003

WENCK ASSOCIATES, INC.

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed Calpine Mankato Natural Gas Plant,
T109N R26W Section 31, Blue Earth County
NHNRP Contact #: ERDB 20040172

Dear Mr. Claridge

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the area indicated on the map enclosed with your information request. Based on this review, there are 9 known occurrences of rare species or natural communities in the area searched (for details, see enclosed database printout and explanation of selected fields). However, based on the nature and location of the proposed project I do not believe it will affect any known occurrences of rare features.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources. It is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, natural communities, and other natural features. Its purpose is to foster better understanding and protection of these features.

Because our information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be rare or otherwise significant natural features in the state that are not represented in the database. A county-by-county survey of rare natural features is now underway, and has been completed for Blue Earth County. Our information about natural communities is, therefore, quite thorough for that county. However, because survey work for rare plants and animals is less exhaustive, and because there has not been an on-site survey of all areas of the county, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

The enclosed results of the database search are provided in two formats: index and full record. To control the release of locational information which might result in the damage or destruction of a rare element, both printout formats are copyrighted.

The index provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the index for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. Copyright notice for the index should include the following disclaimer:

"Copyright (year) State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. This index may be reprinted, unaltered, in Environmental Assessment Worksheets, municipal natural resource plans, and internal reports. For any other use, written permission is required."

DNR Information: 651-296-6157 • 1-888-646-6367 • TTY: 651-296-5484 • 1-800-657-3929

An Equal Opportunity Employer
Who Values Diversity



Printed on Recycled Paper Containing a
Minimum of 10% Post-Consumer Waste

The full-record printout includes more detailed locational information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint the full-record printouts for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only on *rare natural features*. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. If you require further information on the environmental review process for other wildlife-related issues, you may contact your Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Shannon Fisher, at (507) 359-6073.

An invoice for the work completed is enclosed. You are being billed for map and database search and staff scientist review. Please forward this invoice to your Accounts Payable Department. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,

Chandra Carter for

Sarah D. Hoffmann
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

encl: Database search results
Rare Feature Database Print-Outs: An Explanation of Fields
Invoice

MINNESOTA NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE
ELEMENT OCCURRENCE RECORDS

MINNESOTA NATURAL HERITAGE DATABASE
ELEMENT OCCURRENCE RECORDS

MANAGED AREA

MANAGED AREA

MANAGED AREA

MANAGED AREA

TWP	RNG	PRIMARY SECTION	FED STATUS	MN STATUS	S RANK	ELEMENT and OCCURRENCE NUMBER
T109N R26W 06				SPC		COLUMBER CONSTRUCTOR (RACER) #50
T109N R27W 01				NON		ELAPHE VULPINA (FOX SNAKE) #165
T109N R26W 31				S1		MESIC PRAIRIE (SOUTHEAST) #38
T109N R27W 25				S3		FLOODPLAIN FOREST SILVER MAPLE SUBTYPE #64
T109N R27W 35				NON		ELAPHE VULPINA (FOX SNAKE) #164
T109N R27W 36			LT	SPC		HALIAEETUS LEUCOCEPHALUS (BALD EAGLE) #1380
T109N R27W 36				THR		MUSSEL SAMPLING SITE #121
T109N R27W 36				NON		POLYODON SPATHULA (PADDLEFISH) #6
T109N R27W 36						SCAPHIRHYNCHUS PLATORHYNCHUS (SHOVELNOSE STURGEON) #12

RECORDS PRINTED = 9



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

September 9, 2003

Mr. Dale Claridge
Wenck Associates
PO Box 249
Maple Plain, MN 55359-0249

RECEIVED BY

SEP 10 2003

WENCK ASSOCIATES, INC.

RE: Calpine Mankato Energy Center
T109 R26 S31 SW, Lime Twp., Blue Earth County
SHPO Number: 2003-3616

Dear Mr. Claridge:

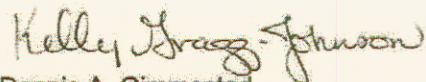
Thank you for consulting with our office during the preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the above referenced project.

Based on our review of the project information, we conclude that there are no properties listed on the National or State Registers of Historic Places, and no known or suspected archaeological properties in the area that will be affected by this project.

Please note that this comment letter does not address the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and 36CFR800, Procedures of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the protection of historic properties. If this project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, it should be submitted to our office with reference to the assisting federal agency.

Please contact us at (651) 296-5462 if you have any questions regarding our comments on this project.

Sincerely,


for Dennis A. Gimmestad
Government Programs and Compliance Officer